

Freight traffic

1941. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of reduction in the export of iron ore and movement of food-grains, how his Ministry is planning to achieve freight traffic target set by it for the first half of this fiscal year;

(b) what is the target set in the first and second quarter of freight traffic this fiscal year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that loading of coal has increased only marginally during the first half of this financial year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Despite some reduction in the loading of Iron Ore for Export and Foodgrains loading, there has been increase in the freight loading of other commodities *i.e.* Cement, Other goods, Petroleum Oil Lubricants (POL) etc. This resulted in an increase of 9.91% in the loading in April-September, 2006 as compared to April-September, 2005.

(b) Freight loading targets set in the first and second quarter of current fiscal year are 178.37 million tonnes and 176.70 million tonnes respectively

(c) The loading of coal during the first half of current financial year was 9.34 million tonnes more than the loading achieved during the corresponding period of last year.

(d) Does not arise.

Changing the design of Mumbai suburban train coaches

1942. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to change the design of Mumbai suburban train coaches so that, it can withstand the impact of blasts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is expected to be implemented and what would be expected financial involvement;